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D. Johnson
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HOVELL et al.

Atty. Ref.: 36-1319

Serial No. (To be assigned)

Group:

Filed: April 13, 2000

Examiner:

For: PATTERN RECOGNITION

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April 13, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2",

Claim 7, line 1, delete "or 6",

Claim 8, line 1, change "any one of claims 1 to 7" to --claim 1--,

Claim 10, line 1, change "any one of claims 5 to 7" to --claim 5--,

Claim 11, line 1, change "any one of claims 1 to 10" to --claim 1--,

Claim 13, line 2 delete "or 12",

Claim 14, line 2 delete "or 12",